

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES**

*October 26, 2021*

*Approved 5-0 – 11/10/2021*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday October 26, 2021 at 7:00pm.

**Commission Members:** Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Scott Walker and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Matt Curran were also present.

**Anticipated Speakers:** N/A

**Members of the Public:** Evelyn Ginsparg, Joy Ahern, Alan Jones

**Preliminary Matter:** Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call and read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Lasker.

**Open Forum – Public Comment** – N/A

**Town Wide Playground Working Group** – The agenda item was tabled. The design has not been completed.

### **Bench Request**

A bench request was submitted by Mark Abbott. Plaque dedication language meets approved criteria. Reservoir location, as requested by Mr. Abbott, TBD.

**Poets Corner Outdoor Rink** - The agenda item was tabled. The head of the volunteer group, Mike Courtney, was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

### **Capital Project Updates**

#### *Reservoir Project Update*

The project is on schedule to be completed December 31, 2021. The sign package was submitted to the town building inspector for approval as required by town by-laws. Ms. Mayer: LWCF grant approved. Construction and new sand have been delineated to prevent contamination. Mr. Connelly: A request has been submitted for approval to install two additional benches on the accessible path overlooking the Reservoir.

*CPA 2023 Requests – Hurd Phase II, Robbins Farm Playground, Design/ADA/Playground, Rink Parking*

#### *Hurd Design Discussion and Field Surfacing*

Mr. Lasker presented a slide show demonstrating the benefits of turf fields over grass fields in relation to safety, maintenance and environmental impacts. It provided ideas for integrated diamonds, multiuse fields and lighting. Also shown were several local fields created within a \$2.4M budget and approved by Conservation Commissions. Mr. Lasker also suggested survey questions for public feedback since a public meeting was not held for the Hurd project. A design idea for two 9v9 soccer fields with an integrated diamond located far enough from the flood zone to allow for flood storage, 4 to 5 lights, an ADA walking path around the perimeter of the field and storage/equipment sheds was also shared with Commission.

The Commission shared pros and cons to changing the project scope to install turf at Hurd. The Commission agrees that turf fields are beneficial for the previously stated reasons as well as for generating revenue by hosting larger events such as tournaments. Shared concerns included the potential effects on funding and scheduling by changing the scope of the project. Thorndike and Poets were identified as the fields with the greatest potential for turf, while agreeing that the focus would initially be on Poets because there would be fewer environmental concerns and the funding would not be town money.

The Commission discussed the following two options regarding Hurd: 1. Spend the \$1.5M CPA funding on a scaled back Hurd renovation including retrofitted lights, an irrigation system and field work then plan for a 2024 turf project. 2. Present a revised project scope to CPA for a turf field.

CPA funding was approved for a “natural grass” request. Ms. Mayer: If CPA is not accommodating to a plan change it could jeopardize the entire project. CPA funding does not cover turf. It was recommended to consult Town Counsel.

Ms. Mayer expressed concern regarding the installation of artificial turf surface in such a highly sensitive environmental area.

Ms. Mayer will be attending the next CPA meeting on November 3. Final applications are due in December. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Lasker will have a discussion with Stantec about project options.

#### *ADA Path*

The ADA path at Summer Street is complete.

#### *Hills Mountain Biking*

The meeting was rained out. Mr. Lasker and Mr. Walker will report back to the Commission when the meeting is rescheduled.

#### *Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds*

Ms. Mayer: The contract has been awarded to KZLA. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Canniff met with the design team last week. The design schedule will be discussed at the November 16 Commission meeting. Mr. Connelly: the anticipated time frame to go out to bid is January/February 2022. Ms. Carrier requested to join the Parmenter/Spy Pond working group.

#### *Poets Corner*

There will be a meeting next Monday, November 1, with Belmont Hill.

#### *Playground Repair Update*

A list of recommendations was prioritized by Mr. Connelly and Mr. Feeney after a walk through with Mike Mason.

Ms. Mayer: Brackett School has submitted a CPA request for a feasibility study.

#### **Recreation Update**

The Commission welcomed new Program Supervisor, Matt Curran. Mr. Curran has worked for the Recreation Department in many capacities over the years. Mr. Curran is currently working on travel basketball, the winter ski program and the spring/summer brochure.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Canniff made a motion to approve the minutes from May 25, 2021, as amended, seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion was approved 5-0.

Ms. Mayer made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2021, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. The motion was approved 4-0.

Ms. Canniff made a motion to approve the minutes from September 28, 2021, seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion was approved 5-0.

Ms. Rothenberg made a motion approve the minutes from October 12, 2021, seconded by Ms. Mayer. The motion was approved 4-0.

#### **Comments and Items for Future Meetings**

- a. Arlington Belmont Crew Proposal
- b. Carry In, Carry Out Trash Policy Discussion
- c. Park cleanliness and upkeep

#### **Correspondence Received** : N/A

**Other**

Ms. Canniff shared that it had come to her attention that one of the Mugar family proposals included a turf field at Thorndike Field and a possible recreation center. She requested clarification on the proposal.

Ms. Canniff made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 5-0, at 9:15pm.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.